



MEETING MINUTES / 17 DECEMBER 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Showell, Stewart, Baldwin, Farley, Lopez, Magner, McMullen, Newman (call-in), Sarg, Seppala (call-in) **76.9%**

Excused: Bradley, Lardizzone, Magner

Unexcused:

Guests: Ginny Yelland (Wilmington VAMC), Pat Cerchio (First State Women Warriors), Kim McMullen, Eschalla Clarke (NABVETS), Carol Winton (NABVETS), Nolan Lewis (NABVETS) Bob Drain (NABVETS)

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS:

Great participation during Wreaths Across America and other veterans' events
Moment of silence for veterans in need, suffering from homelessness, unemployment

MEETING MINUTES:

Approved

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS:

Wilmington VAMC – Virginia Yelland, Assistant to the Director

Not present

Delaware Veterans Home (DVH) – Archie Poling, Interim Director:

Not present

Home of the Brave, Director Jessica Finan:

Not present

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nolan Lewis, NABVETS

NABVETS presented Director Kirby with an appreciation plaque based on his engagement with state veterans

Pat Cercio, First State Military Women Warriors

Spoke of the success of the 14 December organizational lunch

- Seeking leadership candidates

- Seeking younger membership

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bear Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Magner:

Interments – 60 (0)

Large turn out for Wreaths Across America

Millsboro Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Commissioner Bradley:

Interments – 12 (-18)

(Baldwin) If a spouse passes away before the veteran, can they make arrangements to be interred first?

(Kirby) Yes

Health and Human Services, Commissioner Sarg:

Viewed printouts of proposed veterans home dental suite

- Selection to be made

(Showell) Is there an update of the new director selection?

Restated that the director of nursing is the interim director, unsure about the selection process

(Kirby) Difficult to find a veteran with the required certification

Legislative Affairs, Commissioner McMullen:

Commissioner Sarg sent out legislative proposal

HB 265 Property Tax Exemption for 100% Service Connected was introduced on 12 December

(Baldwin) There are three or four legislators interested in sponsorship of the state income tax exemption for military pensions bill

(Showell) Do we need to have a special session, before the next meeting, to discuss the legislative recommendations?

(Kirby) Not necessary because the recommendations do not have a deadline and they can be introduced following the next session

(Showell) Wants the general assembly to be aware of recommendations even if they don't fall under the assembly's jurisdiction

(Farley) Placed a motion to approve the legislative recommendations

- Recommendations were approved

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

DVTF Previous Month: Applications 9; Granted 7 (77.7%); Awarded \$10,525.68; Balance - \$63,660.00

(Showell) Asked if the balance included the endowment funds

Explained that the balance only includes the Department of State funds and not the Friends of Delaware Veterans funds (endowment)

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS:

Commissioner McMullen (Air Force Sergeants Association - AFSA)

Chapter has been inactive due to mission and personnel changes

- Mourning the loss of Senior Advisor Frank Bearse

- Hoping for January election of officers

28 November: Attended MILCON breakfast on Dover AFB

7 December: Attended DAV Christmas Party

10 December: Attended viewing and funeral services for Frank Bearse

Vacant (American Legion - AL)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Bradley (American Veterans - AmVets)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Lardizzone (Disabled American Veterans - DAV)

20 November: Attended Friends of the Delaware Veterans Home meeting

21 November: Attended Delaware National Guard Prayer Breakfast

7 December: Attended DAV Christmas Party

9 December: Attended Wreaths Across America service

12 December: Attended Delaware Veterans Home Admissions meeting

15 December: Attended Senator Carper's Toys for Tots event

17 – 19 December: Attended Departmental Service Officer training

19 December: Attending VVA Chapter 850 Christmas Party and meeting with DAV service dog

Vacant (Korean War Veterans)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Farley (Marine Corps League - MCL)

Toys for Tots drive is in full swing and is accepting any late donations

Commissioner Sarg (Military Officers Association of America - MOAA)

20 November: Attended Friends of Delaware Veterans Home Meeting

22 November: Lobbied Lisa Blunt Rochester at DSU Community Meeting

25 November: Lobbied at MILCON Breakfast at DAFB Landings

2 December: Attended Brain Injury Council Meeting

8 December: Attended MOAA Christmas Party and Toys for Tots drive

9 December: Attended Wreaths Across America Ceremony

12 December: Attended Delaware Veterans Home Admissions Meeting

15 December: Lobbied Senator Carper at his "Toys for Tots" function

Commissioner Magner (Military Order of the Purple Heart - MOPH)

21 November: Department donated \$500.00 to Canines Assisting Service Heroes for dog training

25 November: Chapter 9377 donated \$250.00 to Canines Assisting Service Heroes for dog training

3 December: Attended open house at the Delaware Food Bank

- Spoke with Representative Jaques and Senator Hanson about legislation affecting veterans

7 December: Attended Pearl Harbor Service at the Naval Gun, Newport Delaware

Commissioner Newman (Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW)

Nothing to report

Commissioner Baldwin (Vietnam Veterans of America – VVA)

USS Delaware Commissioning, request for support

- Will be towed to the Port of Wilmington

- In charge of fund raising

Military School progress in Laurel update, anticipate 2021 opening

DMA Blue Ribbon and FSMA Distinguished School update (involved with Commissioning)

Charter School of Wilmington donation to endowment fund

Endowment fund regulations

Resource Guide, DCVA staff is working with Sussex VVA members for an updated document

Mental Health Summit looking to include Sam Beard as a presenter

Compassionate Care is seeking "Veteran to Veteran" volunteers

- You go in once a week to communicate with veterans

Biden Institute wants to establish a veteran's resource center on the University of Delaware campus

Commissioner Showell (At Large, affiliated with Delaware National Guard)
11 Jan: Delaware National Guard Senior Leader Conference, Middletown High School

Commissioner Seppala (At Large, affiliated with Military Order of World Wars)
21 November: Attended the Delaware National Guard Prayer Breakfast
8 December: Attended the Wilmington Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars Holiday Party
14 December: Presented a wreath at the Wreaths Across America service at the Pencader Museum
- Honoring the soldiers killed at Cooch's Bridge

Commissioner Lopez (At Large, affiliated with Delaware Veterans)
Working on military academy in Sussex as a board member
- Thanked Commissioner Baldwin for mentorship
Chairing Dover Mayor's Challenge meetings
- Very successful with strong participation
Attended Lighthouse Christian Academy service for Women Veterans
DelVets Toys for Tots, from both posts, went well
DelVets Post 2 sponsored eight families for Thanksgiving and will sponsor three for Christmas
Benevolent event is on 22 November, a mixer where donations are accepted to assist the family sponsor program
DelVets represented during the Wreaths Across America at Arlington
Inquired about military base access for veterans with VA identification cards

Commissioner Stewart (At Large, affiliated with student veterans' associations)
Nothing to report

TERM COMPLETION:

Bradley – 21 April 2020
Newman – 21 April 2020

EVENTS:

21 November / 0900: Medical Group Health Fair, Medical Clinic, Dover AFB
17 December / 1230: DCVA Holiday Party, DelVets Post 2

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Legislative Concerns (CLOSED)

NEW BUSINESS:

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION:

CLOSED SESSION:

None

SPECIAL SESSION:

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, 21 January 2020 at 1000

LOCATION:

Delaware Commission of Veterans Affairs